

General John A. Dix House
456 C Street
Washington, D.C.

HABS No. DC-373

HABS,
DC,
WASH,
239-

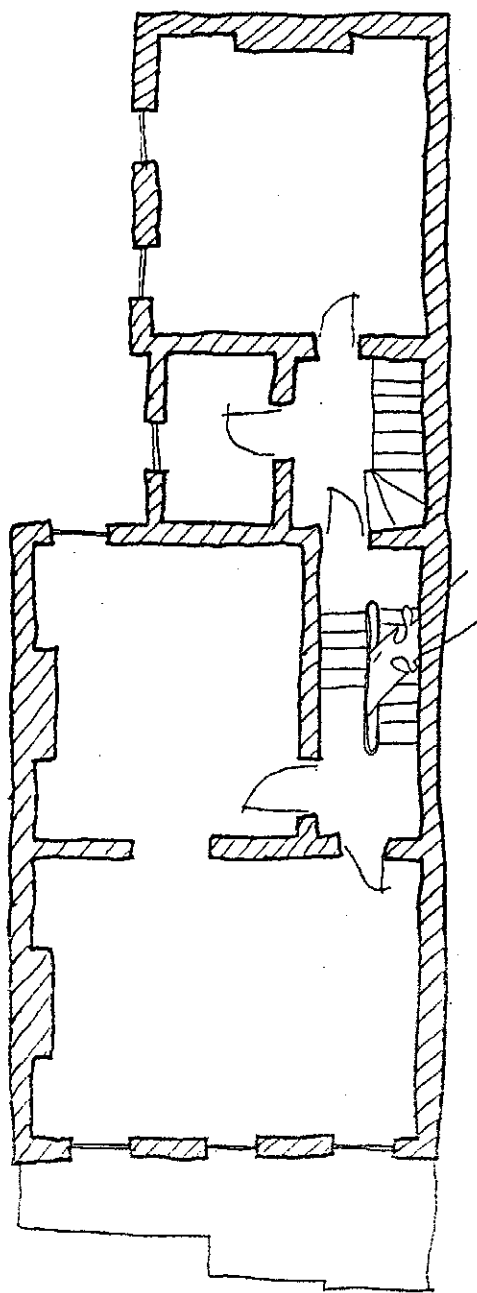
PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

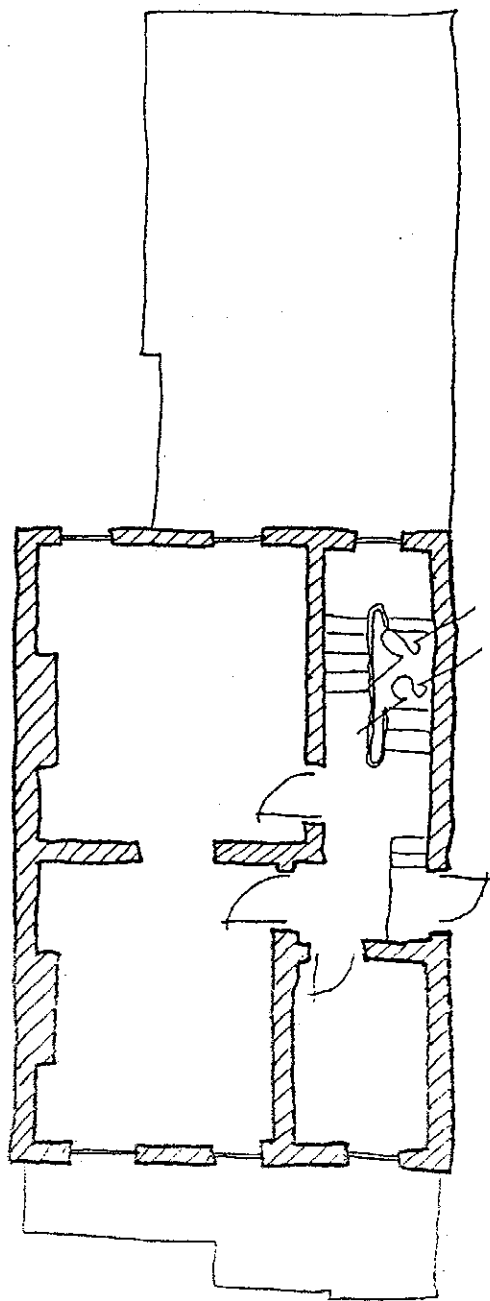
Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington, D.C.
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) General John A. Dix House (Proctor's Washington)		HABS NO. DC-373
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 456 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Old east lot 19 in square 491.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Between 1844 and 1854 (D.C. General Assessment Records)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) General John A. Dix, the secretary of the Treasury from January, 1861 to March 1861, lived here (<u>Proctor's Washington</u>). He was appointed by President Buchanan in 1861.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Load bearing brick with wood frame; wood floor joists running north-south.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The main structure is 25'X35' with ell measuring 10' long. The height from the side walk to the eaves is 37'. (See attached sketched floor plans)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The building is three stories with basement and has three bay facade. Windows have stone lintels and sills. The classical entrance surround consists of Doric pilasters. Supporting an entablature. Sash members and glazing muntins are very slender dating the to mid-Nineteenth Century. The eave cornice consists of two corbelled brick courses.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) At the first floor, doors and windows have shouldered architraves that features a slightly pedimented head and flat simple pellet bands. (See sketches of floor plans).		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The facade appears to have been refaced in the late Nineteenth Century. While the entry way frame may have been original, the window lintels and jambs seem later than original construction.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Boarding house in conjunction with 458 C Street.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This structure was recorded by Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a memorandum of agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Proctor's Washington and Environs Sunday Star Collection Martin Luther King Library 1844 and 1850 D.C. General Assessment Records, National Archives.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Wendy Hunter, architect with PADC, Patricia Rowse, historian with HABS		DATE 6/80

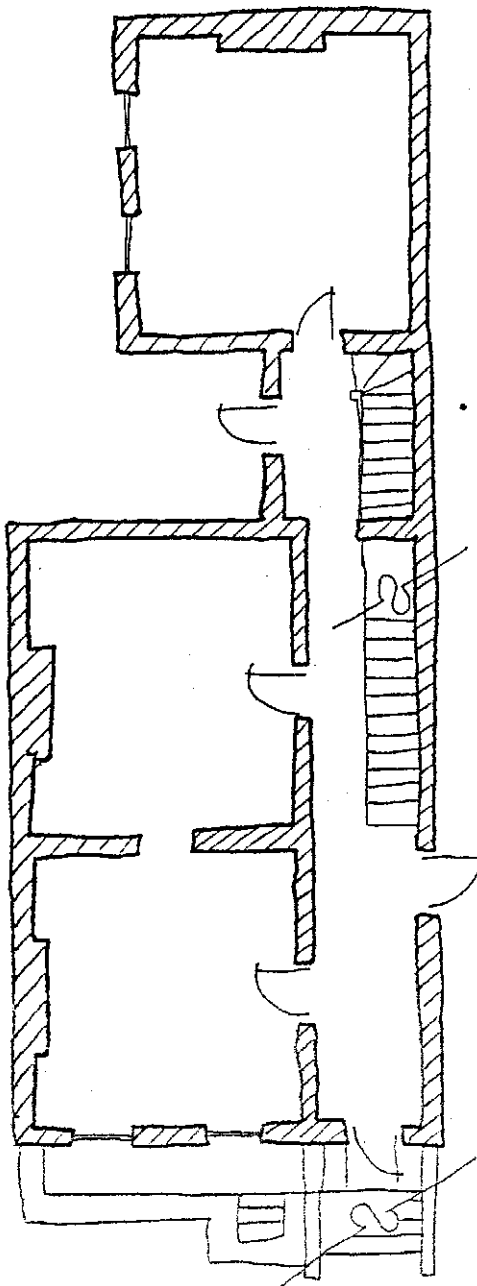


SECOND FLOOR

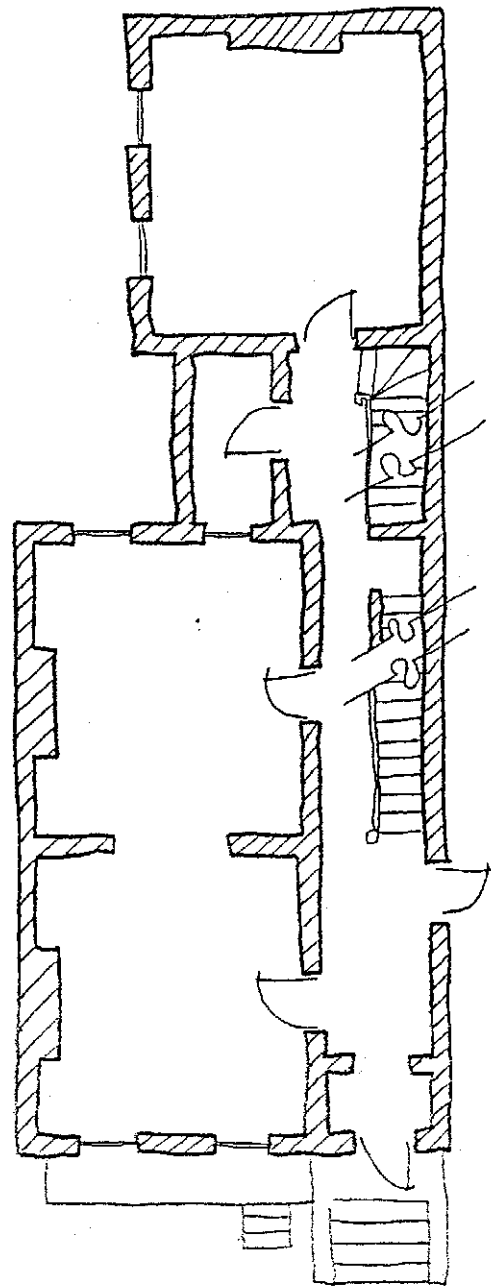


THIRD FLOOR

456 C STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON , D.C.



BASEMENT



FIRST FLOOR

456 C STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ADDENDUM TO:
General John A. Dix House
456 C Street, NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-373

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239-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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ADDENDUM TO
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

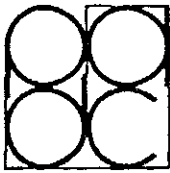
GENERAL JOHN A. DIX HOUSE

This report is an addendum to a 3 page report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

Location: 456 C Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Date of Construction: 1854.

Present Owner: unknown.



PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

425 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

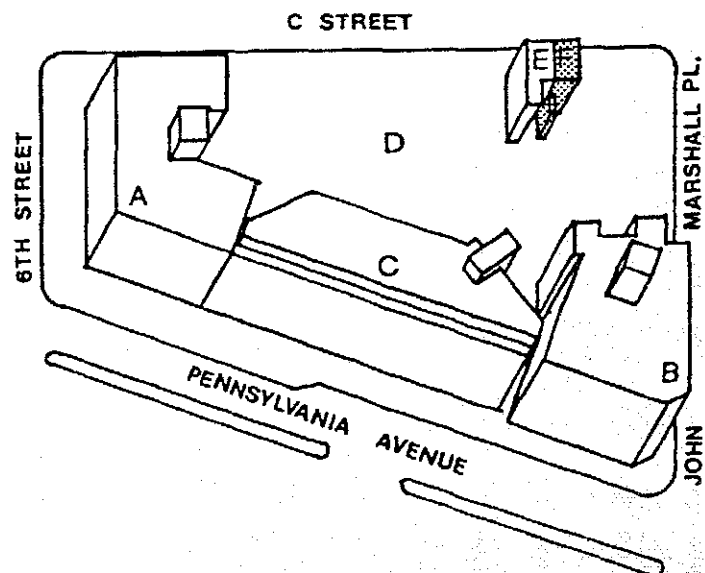
GENERAL CONSULTANTS

ANDERSON, NOTTER/MARIANI
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
DEVROUX & PURNELL
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS
DAVID McLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

GENERAL JOHN A. DIX HOUSE
456 C STREET, NW
PART OF OLD LOT 19



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Dating from c. 1850, this Greek Revival townhouse occupies a rectangular lot near the corner of C Street and John Marshall Place, next to the site of the old Metropolitan Church. Site dimensions are 25' wide by 60' deep. The building is approximately L-shaped in plan, consisting of the principal volume at the north which is joined to a smaller structure at the rear by an enclosed link. The remaining southeast corner area is a courtyard. The building shares a party wall with the adjacent townhouse to the west and is bounded at the east by a vacant lot. The main building is a rectangular three story brick structure capped by a gabled roof. A two story shed-roofed brick outbuilding to the south is connected to the main building by a wood frame link. The main structure measures 25' wide by 35' deep and the south outbuilding is 15' by 15' wide. The connecting link is 10' long. Each floor above overhangs the one below, resulting in a reverse stepped effect.

The main facade is set back from the sidewalk to accommodate a shallow areaway for access to the basement. The facade is pressed brick in a simple tripartite arrangement. The height from the sidewalk to the eave is 37'. The entrance is offset to the west. At the rear there is on-grade access to the basement.

The interior structure is wood-frame, with joists running north-south.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The building appears to be a late Greek Revival design, especially when judged by its interior detailing. The facade appears to have been re-faced during the late Nineteenth Century, and while the entryway frame might have been original and reutilized, the window lintels and jambs seem later than original construction. The interior window and door frames on the first floor feature distinctive Greek Revival shouldered entablatures. The simple exterior facade organization and trabeated fenestration and the classical door framing justify its Greek Revival classification.

The scale and style of this house is representative of the earliest residential development of Washington. Together with the adjacent 458 C Street to the west, they are the only remaining such examples in this block.

According to Proctor's Washington, General John A. Dix, Secretary of the Treasury, resided in this house.

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Facade: The first floor is about four feet above grade which reinforces the facade's verticality. There are three openings per floor; the doorway occupies the west bay of the first floor. Windows have stone lintels and sills, and diminish in height at each floor level. The entrance is accentuated by a wooden classical surround, consisting of Doric pilasters supporting a rather heavy entablature. Windows are all double hung with six-over-six glazing. Sash members and glazing muntins are very slender and are dated mid-Nineteenth Century. The eave cornice consists of two corbelled brick courses.

Interior: The interior lay-out is repetitive and simple, consisting of a front and a rear room to the east, with stairs and corridors to the west. Two staircases with straight runs in the opposite direction, ascend to meet at a partitioned common landing at the second floor.

At the first floor door and windows have shouldered architraves that feature a slightly pedimented head and flat simple fillet bands.

August 1979



NORTH FACADE



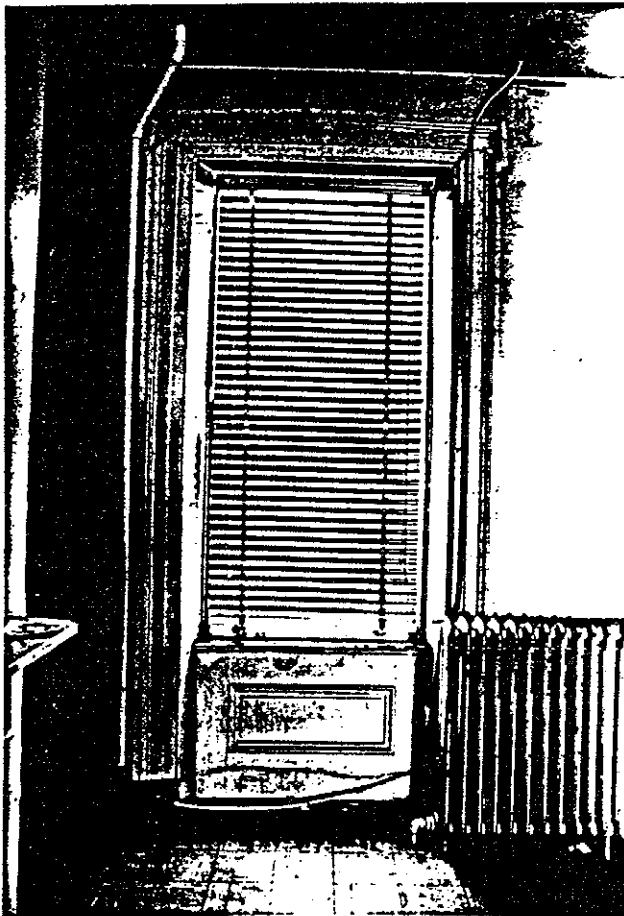
NORTH FACADE:DETAIL OF MAIN
ENTRANCE DOOR



VIEW FROM NORTHEAST SHOWING EAST ELEVATION AND
ADJACENT BUILDINGS



VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST SHOWING REAR OUTBUILDING AND
SOUTH ELEVATION.

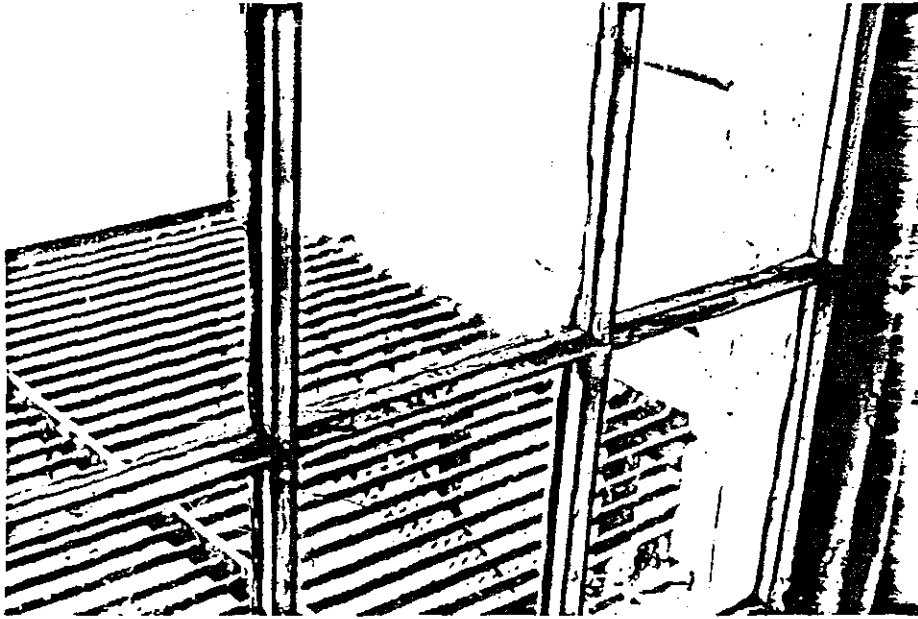


SHOULDERED WINDOW ARCHITRAVE
AT FIRST FLOOR



FRONT WINDOWS AT SECOND FLOOR

ADDENDUM TO:
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DETAIL OF MUNTINS AT SECOND FLOOR WINDOWS